

of Kabul. As Afghanistan collapsed, thousands of Americans and Afghan partners reached out to my office for assistance. Overwhelmed by a flood of stranded civilians a world away, Rowdy snapped into action. He quickly organized a process for triaging and assisting American citizens, green card holders, and Afghans who had fought alongside American forces. He created “baseball cards” for isolated Americans in Kabul, which were passed along to the 10th Mountain Division and special forces units. He helped technologically illiterate evacuees navigate the State Department’s onerous online registration for evacuation, and in dozens of cases, he alerted the State Department to the presence of American citizens stuck inside a collapsing country. In conjunction with my staff in Arkansas, DC, and even one inside Kabul’s airport perimeter, Rowdy worked a long stream of 20-hour days to exfiltrate evacuees.

It is difficult to quantify the number of lives that Major Murphy saved. He provided direct planning support and guidance to 76 evacuees, drawing on his expertise as a fighter pilot to design and execute dozens of successful evacuation strategies. The evacuees ranged from a 1-month-old infant to an 83-year-old cancer patient, all of whom are now safely free of the Taliban’s grasp. During the course of these missions, he coordinated directly with Joint Special Operations Task Force and NATO tier-1 units. Rowdy indirectly helped countless others. He received, logged, and relayed innumerable evacuation requests over those 2 weeks and directly passed along the State Department’s terror warning prior to the suicide bomb attack on the airport’s Abbey Gate. At least 70 people received this notification from Rowdy and took shelter, a testament to his organization and persistence.

Those are the statistics. The personal stories are far more profound. There was Mikey, a brave translator who served alongside U.S. troops. When Mikey’s wife and son were shot by the Taliban, Rowdy acted as a personal 911 dispatcher, staying on the line with Mikey’s family of four for over 5 days and exhausting countless options to safely deliver them from the throngs outside the airport gates. After nearly a week of constant communication, stopping only to sleep for a few hours a night, Rowdy’s direct coordination with U.S. military personnel succeeded in delivering Mikey’s family to safety and medical care. When Mikey finally made it through the airport gates, he was crestfallen to learn that Rowdy was in DC, and not there to greet him inside the airport.

My staff described those 2 weeks in August as relentless and exhausting. When Rowdy would take 3 to 4 hours a night to sleep, he would wake to dozens of new messages from people stranded in Kabul, pleading for help. One member of my DC staff, a marine with combat experience in Afghanistan’s

Helmand province, said the personal toll from 2 weeks of helping desperate people pleading for rescue was more profound and exacting than his wartime service. Yet throughout it all, Rowdy stayed calm, cool, and professional. He kept a relentless focus on his mission. When the final American troops left Afghanistan, Rowdy was instructed to put his phone down for a few days to recover. As a testament to his resilience, he ignored those instructions and kept working on alternate evacuation options for those left behind.

Major Murphy was recently invited to the wedding of one of his evacuees, as a token of deep gratitude and affection for the Air Force major who helped deliver them to safety. His ingenuity, resourcefulness, stamina, and composure under pressure reflect the best that America has to offer.

I want to sincerely thank Rowdy and his wife, Laurel, for a year of exemplary service in my office. But I am especially grateful to him for those 2 weeks in August, when he rose to the challenge that history had thrust upon him. It has been a privilege to watch him work, and he will always have an open door here in my office. It is my sincere hope that the Air Force sees fit to decorate Rowdy after his distinguished service during those dark days. My best to the Murphy family, and “Banzai!”

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO MARK HAGOPIAN AND JAY ANDERSON

• Ms. HASSAN. Madam President, I am proud to recognize Mark Hagopian of Auburn and Jay Anderson of Sandown as November’s Granite Staters of the Month. Mark and Jay partnered together to raise COVID-19 relief money for Granite Staters by designing and selling their own special IPA, which they named “Brain Fog.”

In March of 2020, Mark Hagopian was rushed to Elliot Hospital in Manchester and was immediately admitted to the ICU to be treated for COVID-19. After 3 weeks on a ventilator, Mark miraculously recovered thanks to the hard work of the nurses and medical staff—or “super heroes,” as he calls them.

After his recuperation, Mark wanted to help others, which led him to partner with Elliot Hospital to set up the NH COVID-19 Family Relief Fund. Proceeds go to Granite Staters who continue to feel the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and can help these individuals with healthcare copays, rehabilitation, groceries, and other costs.

When Mark asked his friend Jay Anderson, owner of From the Barrel Brewing Company in Derry, about teaming up, Jay said it was a “no-brainer.” They got to work designing a special IPA with the proceeds going to the NH COVID-19 Family Relief Fund.

Since Mark had been a regular customer, Jay knew exactly what type of beer Mark would like, and together, they named the final product “Brain Fog.”

At the launch event for “Brain Fog,” Granite Staters mingled and heard from Mark and Jay about the NH COVID-19 Family Relief Fund. The beer itself was wildly successful, as evidenced by the fact that Mark and Jay sold out of all the cases of “Brain Fog” that first weekend. The duo plans to revive the brew and continue fundraising for the Elliot Hospital in the future.

Mark and Jay are shining examples of what it means to be Granite Staters. After undergoing intense medical hardship, Mark turned around and started giving back to his community, and Jay was more than ready to help. Not only did they show impressive innovation and entrepreneurship, but they also brought people together during an especially hard time as our State and country continue to feel the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. I am honored to name them as Granite Staters of the Month, and I look forward to seeing how their future endeavors continue to make our communities stronger.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:16 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that pursuant to 44 U.S.C. 2702, and the order of the House of January 4, 2021, the Speaker appoints the following individual on the part of the House of Representatives to the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress: Mr. Norman Jay Ornstein of Washington, DC.

The message also announced that pursuant to 44 U.S.C. 2702, the Clerk of the House appoints the following individual on the part of the House of Representatives to the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress: Ms. Danna Bell of Washington, DC.

PRIVILEGED NOMINATION REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

On request by Senator GARY C. PETERS, under the authority of S. Res. 116, 112th Congress, the following nomination was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Laurel A. Blatchford, of the District of Columbia, to be Controller, Office of Federal Financial Management, Office of Management and Budget, vice David Arthur Mader.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-2644. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division,